



Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities

DD Tips

Winter 2012

Bullying Information and Facts

PACER'S National Bullying Prevention Center reports:

"Only 10 U.S. studies have been conducted on the connection between bullying and developmental disabilities but all of these studies found that **children with disabilities were two to three times more likely** to be bullied than their non-disabled peers. One study shows that 60 percent of students with disabilities report being bullied regularly compared with 25 percent of all students."

Visit the website for valuable free resources and specific guidance, outreach activities, and opportunities to end bullying that are available from PACER'S National Bullying Prevention Center. The website offers insight and guidance to parents, students, educators, and employers. Information handouts are also available in both Spanish and Somali.

[National Bullying Prevention Center-Publications](#)



When People with Intellectual Disabilities Grieve

People with intellectual disabilities react to grief and loss when they lose a loved one just like everyone else. Emotions may be expressed through behaviors, for example, irritability, anxiety, depression, and other signs of distress.

To assist in the grieving process, there are key strategies that can be utilized such as providing reassurance, promoting conversation about the loved one, and providing opportunities for the person to make connections with the loved one to the past, present and future.

For ways to help someone with an intellectual disability grieve, visit

[When Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Grieve](#)

State Council

The most recent State Council meeting was held at the Highlands Golf Course on November 30, 2012. The next meeting will be held on February 8, 2013.

Learn about the

[Nebraska
Planning Council on
Developmental
Disabilities](#)

by visiting our
website at

[www.dhhs.ne.gov/
ddplanning](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/ddplanning)

Assistive Technology

Children with cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, spina bifida, and muscular dystrophy typically have difficulty controlling small coordinated movements involving the hand, wrist and fingers. A new prototype device has been developed at the Georgia Institute of Technology that allows children with fine motor impairment to access apps such as UTube and Facebook.

A child can wear the current prototype around the forearm or position the device on the arm of a wheelchair. The child hits the sensors or swipes his or her fist across the sensors. The combination of sensor hits and swipes gets converted to various touch-based commands on the tablet.

Currently, thousands of children with orthopedic disabilities have been excluded in the public school system from tablet and touch screening devices. Assistive Technology is available to them for use on traditional computer platforms but not tablets or smartphones. The wireless input device, called Access4Kids, was created by Ayanna Howard, professor of electrical and computer engineering, along with graduate student Hae Won Park. Howard will soon create a second prototype device that will be more flexible with sensors placed anywhere the child is capable of hitting them, such as with a foot or side of the head.



(Credit: Georgia Tech)

Visit [Access4Kids: Helping Children with Disabilities Access Tablets](#)

Improve Your Bottom Line

According to a National Survey of Consumer Attitudes towards Companies that Hire People with Disabilities, 87 percent of the public would prefer to give their business to companies that hire individuals with disabilities. People with disabilities and their network, as reported by the U.S. Census, represent one trillion dollars in discretionary spending.

Employees with disabilities bring unique skills, perspectives, and work ethics to the workplace that help reduce costs. Savings can be maximized by creating an inclusive workforce and culture that values employees, including those with disabilities.

Watch a spotlight video about return on investment going beyond profit when you employ people with disabilities and turn social issues into business opportunities at

[The Business Case: Return on Investment](#)



'My Thinker's Not Working'

['My Thinker's Not Working': A National Strategy for Enabling Adults with Intellectual Disabilities Affected by Dementia to Remain in Their Community and Receive Quality Supports](#) was prepared by the National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices.

The report provides both a summary of the challenges facing the United States as we observe an increasing rate of dementia found in older individuals with intellectual disabilities, and offers recommendations that comprise a **National Action Plan** for the various stakeholders in the field of intellectual disabilities.

Health Reform

[The Kaiser Family Foundation](#) serves as a non-partisan source of facts, information, and analysis for policy-makers, the media, the health care community, and the public. Its extensive information resources are always provided free of charge. Visit [Health Reform Source](#).



With the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act resolved, a guide to the Supreme Court's decision and the implementation of health care in the future is available for review. The issue paper includes a background of the history of the case being accepted by the Supreme Court including the Individual Mandate and the Medicaid Expansion. The guide to the Supreme Court's decision is publication [#8332](#) and is available on The Kaiser Family Foundation website.

Medicaid Eligibility and Enrollment changes for people with disabilities under the Affordable Care Act are explained in this review with a summary of how issues will be impacted by health care reform with new federal regulations from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Provisions of the new Exchange regulations are discussed regarding how they relate to Medicaid eligibility determination for people with disabilities. The publication is [#8390](#) and is also available on The Kaiser Family Foundation website.

Both issue papers were prepared by MaryBeth Musumeci of The Kaiser Family Foundation's Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured.

Developmental Disabilities Resources

The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities has a comprehensive list of national resources related to disabilities available at www.nacdd.org/site/home.aspx

Nebraska Contacts

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| • DHHS Helpline | 800-254-4202 |
| • Hotline for Disability Services | 800-742-7594 |
| • Disability Rights Nebraska | 800-422-6691 |
| • Munroe-Meyer Institute | 800-656-3937 |
| • The Arc of Nebraska | 402-475-4407 |
| • Statewide Independent Living Council | 402-438-7979 |
| • PTI Nebraska (Parent Training Information) | 800-284-8520 |
| • ATP (Assistive Technology Partnership) | 888-806-6287 |
| ♦ Housing Resource Specialist | 888-806-6287 or 402-471-0734 |
| ♦ Funding Coordinator | 888-806-6287 or 402-471-0734 |

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